Burdekin grower finds success with cane and small crops

Crop protection and nutrition feature
All new SINKER® fungicide from Crop Care controls primary infections of sugarcane smut and pineapple disease.

Developed in conjunction with industry research body, BSES Limited, SINKER contains flutriofol, a highly soluble and systemic active ingredient in an easy to use formulation, with excellent activity against these two diseases.

Reduce the detrimental impact on yield from sugarcane smut and pineapple disease today.

For further information, contact your Crop Care sales representative or Crop Care Customer Service on 1800 111 454.

® Sinker is a registered trademark. Crop Care Australasia Pty Ltd ACN 061 362 347
Burdekin grower
Ken Booth keeps a combination of cane and horticulture on his innovative farm. Photo by Jasmine Hunt.

Ron Mullins
CANEGROWERS
Acting CEO

INDUSTRY NEWS

4 Industry news briefs
6 Fair Work Australia completes its annual wage review
7 Nearly $1 million invested to fight yellow canopy syndrome

WHAT’S NEW

8 QSL update: Price recovery disappointing and further currency weakness expected
9 How the Shared Pool works
10 Regional round up

CROP NUTRITION & PROTECTION

11-17 Product and service profiles

FARMERS TEACHING FARMERS

18 Horticulture and cane combo a winner for Burdekin family

MEMBER SERVICES

22 Classifieds
24 Weather report
As harvest well and truly kicks into gear across many regions, most growers will be thinking of planting and how to get the most out of the next plant crop. This edition of Australian Canegrower features crop nutrition and protection – ideas to help you get the most out of your next plant. Read more from page 11.

We also bring big news this edition: Sugar Research Australia has been given the green light from the Senate, with the Bill passing through on 28 June. This is a fantastic result for the industry and a time for jubilation for all involved. Read more on page 7.

Yellow canopy syndrome continues to cause headaches for growers, as early milling results have indicated lower CCS against yellow canopy, with a $1 million joint research initiative between the Queensland Government and the sugar industry announced last fortnight. Read more on page 7.

This edition we also feature a look at Burdekin grower Ken Booth’s farming enterprise, starting on page 18.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Jasmine Hunt

---

**Long term weather outlook**

*By Professor Roger Stone*

Note, for forecasts valid for the actual day of issue, always refer to latest BoM forecasts for that day/hour. The forecasts below are issued by selected computer models (including those generated at the USQ) and are designed more for extended range applications.

**Weather outlook for fortnight 1 July – 14 July:**

- **Model 1** (less confidence): 8 July - 16 July overall period: 10 – 60 mm with highest falls NNSW and SEQ.
- **Model 2** (covering longer periods) as follows:
  - 4 July – 10 July overall: 70% - 80% probability of exceeding the long-term median for this particular period of the year for most districts.
  - 11 July – 17 July overall: 70% - 80% probability of exceeding the long-term median for this particular period of the year for most districts.

The Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) has moved past northern Australia and would next be due towards the end of July. However, mid-level cloud bands and associated rainfall may well precede the actual passage of the MJO which, at this time of year, travels through Northern Hemisphere latitudes.

**Seasonal and monthly forecasts:**

The seasonal and operational three month statistical climate forecast as developed by Stone et al, 1996, and valid 01/07/13 to 30/09/13 (higher confidence): 60% - 80% probability of above median rainfall in all districts with highest rainfall probability values (~80%) just inland from the entire eastern Queensland coast.

Individual months (only experimental for feedback purposes at this stage in regards to the value of this type of output):

- **July:** (updated June 30) Higher than normal rainfall probability values with 70% - 80% chance of exceeding median rainfall in all regions.
- **August:** (not yet updated) Higher than normal probability values throughout with 70% - 80% probability of exceeding median rainfall.
- **September:** (not yet updated) Slightly higher than normal rainfall probability values with 60% - 70% probability of exceeding median rainfall throughout.

**Longer-term general overview:**

Overall, for the ongoing harvest period (August through to end of November), most models suggest above normal rainfall probabilities for all districts for this overall period.

A number of extended range sea surface temperature models (eg. POAMA2) are suggesting the above pattern to evolve into some sort of La Niña pattern during winter but not to be necessarily persistent through summer in a concerted way.

SOI: The 30 day average SOI to 30/06/13 is plus 10.54 (+10.54).

---

**Golden tips**

**Tertiary study scholarships available for women**

The Supporting Women Scholarships are a Queensland Government initiative that opens doors for women to undertake study, and ultimately employment, in nominated fields.

The scholarships, worth up to $20 000, are being offered by the Queensland Government over four years.

The scholarships are available for study in agricultural science, architecture, building services, engineering, geology, or information technology from certificate IV to postgraduate level.

For more information visit www.skills.qld.gov.au/supportingwomen

---

**Ravensdown Fertiliser Price Update**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price</th>
<th>6July</th>
<th>13July</th>
<th>20July</th>
<th>27July</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAP pricing - $USD</strong></td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potassium Chloride pricing - $USD</strong></td>
<td>350.00</td>
<td>350.00</td>
<td>350.00</td>
<td>350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Urea pricing - $USD</strong></td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---
SRA a firm reality as Bill passes through federal Senate

By CANEGROWERS
Acting CEO,
Ron Mullins

The rewards for the industry vision and planning for research, development and extension (RD&E) reform were realised last fortnight, when the federal Senate passed legislation sought by the vast majority of Australian cane growers and sugar millers.

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) now has a mandate to deliver vital research and development necessary for our competitiveness and viability with the support of secure funding.

The research, development and extension reform legislation allowing the Australian sugarcane industry to streamline and modernise its research function under new body, SRA, was passed in the Senate on 28 June.

Royal Assent for the three SRA Bills then followed, allowing for the new levy on sugarcane delivered for processing from 1 July.

The levy of 35 cents per tonne for growers and 35 cents per tonne for mills is 2 cents per tonne lower than the combined SRDC levy and the BSES service fee.

CANEGROWERS sincerely thanks the former federal Agriculture Minister and all politicians for their support in ensuring the sugar bills were passed by the Senate before the close of Parliamentary sitting.

All sugar industry levy payers will be the owners of SRA, a not-for-profit industry owner company focused on research and development producing results for the industry.

With interesting political developments in Canberra, CANEGROWERS will now intensify its efforts in the lead up to the federal election later this year.

The key messages that we want to deliver to the candidates is that the next Australian Government must take the opportunity to amplify the economic and social benefits of the sugarcane industry to rural and regional Australia and the removal of the barriers limiting growth and sustainability.

Government policy is pushing electricity and fuel costs higher, rapidly eroding the international competitiveness of the Australian sugarcane industry.

Action we seek is axing of the carbon tax; tightening the rules applied by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) to reduce electricity network costs; and retention of the fuel tax credit for off-road and agricultural fuel use.

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) now has a mandate to deliver vital research and development necessary for our competitiveness and viability with the support of secure funding.

Ron Mullins, CANEGROWERS Acting CEO

The Australian sugarcane industry is setting a new world-leading direction for profitability, productivity and land and water stewardship by developing a Sugarcane Best Management Practice program, supported by the Queensland Government.

The industry is seeking the federal government’s ongoing commitment to the Reef Rescue program in delivering real outcomes for both growers and the environment.

Federal government commitment is required to ensure that Australian sugarcane growers compete to sell their sugar internationally on a level playing field without subsidies or trade and market price supports.

We need to ensure that sugar is not left out of trade agreements providing equality in access to markets with our trading partners.

For the Australian sugarcane industry to expand and to sell into growing markets in Asia, more funding for research, development and extension is required.

CANEGROWERS seeks an increased commitment from government’s contribution to expenditure on agricultural research and development outcomes. We also seek the support the reintroduction of diuron’s use as an agricultural chemical.

Last week the Australian and Thai sugar industries came together - as they have every two to three years since 2000 - to explore opportunities for the two industries to work more closely to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

The meeting agenda included market and trade issues including regional trade agreements and the impact of EU export subsidies. Research and development also had a major focus with a session on recent developments and long term priorities in research and productivity.
Cane growers ecstatic as Sugar Research Australia Bill passed in Senate

Legislation which allows the Australian sugarcane industry to streamline and modernise its research function under new body, Sugar Research Australia (SRA), was passed in the Senate on 28 June.

The sugarcane industry had been waiting with bated breath for the Bills to be read, especially after the political machinations last fortnight which resulted in Kevin Rudd being elected leader of the Labor Party and thus Prime Minister.

The Bills were passed unanimously after Senator Ian Macdonald and Senator Barnaby Joyce spoke to the motion supporting research reform.

“CANEGROWERS would like to thank Senator Macdonald and Joyce for their ongoing support in ensuring the sugar

bills were passed by the Senate before the close of Parliamentary sitting,” said CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri.

Mr Schembri said that CANEGROWERS wanted to thank the landslide of Ministers and departmental officers who had worked tirelessly to make this reality and made special mention of the hard yards put in by the former Minister for Agriculture, Joe Ludwig.

Mr Schembri said the passing of the Bill in the Senate today was an important step in a massive and all-encompassing process spanning two years.

“The sugar industry supports this reform, now parliament supports this reform, and SRA will soon become reality,” Mr Schembri said.

CANEGROWERS has welcomed the Opposition Government’s vision for developing northern Australia, saying it would go a long way in filling the ever-increasing demand for Australian sugar globally.

CANEGROWERS pointed to the fact that the market for Australia’s sugar production is right on our doorstep: Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan being the four largest export destinations, and Australia is conveniently located to these keep transport costs down.

The big news is that Asian demand is growing as the continent comes to grips with a population growth and the rise of an increasingly affluent middle class - with a sweet tooth.

“The sugarcane industry has been a success story of Queensland’s development,” says Paul Schembri, Chair of CANEGROWERS.

“And with the right environment, sugarcane is positioned to mount a resurgence that the State’s economy would be proud of.”

Mr Schembri said the passing of the Bill in the Senate today was an important step in a massive and all-encompassing process spanning two years.

“The sugar industry supports this reform, now parliament supports this reform, and SRA will soon become reality,” Mr Schembri said.

Czarnikow Group, predicts that global sugar demand will increase by 53% to 257 million Metric Tons Raw Value (MTRV) by 2030 compared with 168 million MTRV in 2010.

Reef spared from ‘in danger’ rating

UNESCO has deferred its decision to place the Great Barrier Reef on the World Heritage “in danger” list. It follows a recent delegation from UNESCO to visit the Reef and its concerns about the level of development, and in particular at sites such as Gladstone Harbour.

The Queensland Government has welcomed the announcement from UNESCO, and pointed to its work on development issues adjacent the Reef, and work with agricultural industries as positive factors behind the decision.

“We have started rolling out best management practice programs with the agricultural industry to reduce nutrient run off and improve water quality whilst delivering economic benefits for farmers,” Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, Andrew Powell, said.

ATTENTION:
MF105 CANE HARVESTER OWNERS

Seeking MF105 cane harvesters in good working condition.

RESPOND TO: asltnk@vsnl.com

Developing the north:
CANEGROWERS says ‘yes please’

CANEGROWERS has welcomed the Opposition Government’s vision for developing northern Australia, saying it would go a long way in filling the ever-increasing demand for Australian sugar globally.

CANEGROWERS pointed to the fact that the market for Australia’s sugar production is right on our doorstep: Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan being the four largest export destinations, and Australia is conveniently located to these keep transport costs down.

The big news is that Asian demand is growing as the continent comes to grips with a population growth and the rise of an increasingly affluent middle class - with a sweet tooth.

“The sugarcane industry has been a success story of Queensland’s development,” says Paul Schembri, Chair of CANEGROWERS.

“And with the right environment, sugarcane is positioned to mount a resurgence that the State’s economy would be proud of.”

The Queensland Land Audit has identified hundreds of thousands of hectares suitable for sugarcane production.

Mr Schembri said that investment in logistics infrastructure, tropical research and water storage capacity identified by the plan will be needed to make this land productive.

“CANEGROWERS is happy to work with government at all levels and all political persuasions to expand the sugarcane industry in Australia,” he says.

Around 80% of Australia’s sugar is exported, and with 95% of coming from Queensland, it is an important pillar of Queensland’s economy.

Czarnikow Group, predicts that global sugar demand will increase by 53% to 257 million Metric Tons Raw Value (MTRV) by 2030 compared with 168 million MTRV in 2010.
New PM, new agriculture minister

Former chief government whip Joel Fitzgibbon has been promoted to the front bench in the new Kevin Rudd-led government, as the new Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Joel Fitzgibbon, federal member for Hunter in New South Wales, was appointed to the ministry following the standing down of Joe Ludwig, who was a supporter of Julia Gillard.

Anthony Albanese will serve has Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and Leader of the House.

Mark Butler has been appointed Minister for Climate Change and Minister for Environment, Heritage and Water; Kim Carr has been appointed Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and Minister for Higher Education; Catherine King has been appointed Minister for Regional Australia, Local Government and Territories; and Richard Marles has been appointed Minister of Trade.

Australian produce: from farm gate to Parliament House

Last fortnight, all Federal Parliamentarians received a reminder of the importance of agriculture to the Australian community, in the form of hampers of Australian food and fibre products.

The hampers, delivered by the National Farmers’ Federation (NFF) on behalf of all Australian farmers, contained produce sourced from or donated by NFF members and key Australian suppliers, with support from Australian Made, Australian Grown and OzHarvest.

The hampers are a timely reminder to all Federal MPs and Senators in the final sitting week before the Federal Election, of the importance of our farmers and the agriculture sector to Australia’s society, economy and environment. NFF CEO Matt Linnegar says that in this election year, the NFF is asking all Parliamentarians – including those from urban electorates – to make agriculture a high priority.

The hampers contained a selection of Australian produce, including cotton towels, sugar and golden syrup, olive oil, tinned peaches, honey, rice, sultanas, flavoured milks, jam, apples, wool key rings, beef jerky, and other items such as lamb recipes.

Produce was kindly supplied by Australian Dairy Farmers Ltd, Australian Livestock Exporters’ Council, Australian Pork Limited, Beechworth Honey, CANEGROWERS, Cattle Council of Australia, Cotton Australia, Dried Fruits Australia, NSW Farmers, Ricegrowers’ Association of Australia, Sheepmeat Council of Australia, Victorian Farmers Federation, WoolProducers Australia, CSR, Devondale, Homeleigh Grove, Lion, Prime Super, SPC, and Sunbeam. Sugar Australia supplied the Australian sugar and golden syrup.

The NFF is also partnering with OzHarvest, Australia’s leading food rescue charity, to ensure that any unwanted food from the hampers will go to those who need it most.

Waterlogged paddocks?

- There is a solution

Drain Tech Pty Ltd
Sub-surface Drainage Contractors
Ring Richard Gloyne 0428 528 054 richard@draintech.net.au
www.draintech.net.au
Fair Work Commission completes its annual wage review

By CANEGROWERS Manager – IR & Grower Services, Greg Trost

The Annual Wage Review 2012-13 has been completed by the Minimum Wage Panel of the Fair Work Commission. In its decision, the Commission has granted a uniform percentage increase of 2.6% per week wage increase to all modern award weekly wages with effect from the first pay period on or after 1 July 2013.

As part of the Panel’s decision the Fair Work Commission has announced that the national minimum wage for an adult employee will be $622.20 per week (or $16.37 per hour) up from $606.40 per week ($15.96 per hour). This increase, based on the national minimum wage, equates to a weekly increase of $15.80 or 41 cents per hour.

There are, however, transitional provisions that apply to modern awards. The Sugar Industry Award 2010 contains the ‘model’ transitional provisions introduced as part of the award modernisation process. These transitional arrangements will continue to operate until the beginning of the first full pay period on or after 1 July 2014. Under the transitional arrangements for modern awards there is a formula to minimise any cost implications for employers and employees as a result of moving to the modern award.

Field Sector Award 2010 covers all employers and employees

In accordance with the Fair Work Australia (FWA) Guidance Note 7 on Transitional Arrangements in Modern Awards, we have used the calculation principles to quantify the amount of the wage increase for the Sugar Industry Award 2010 Field Sector Classifications which will range from $8.18 to $9.84 per week for adult employees.

Casual loading

Due to mixed messages that we have recently received from the Fair Work Ombudsman office we are currently in discussions with the Ombudsman’s office on the correct loading to be applied to casual employees. The PayCheck Plus site has a 20% loading whereas the Pay and Conditions Guide shows a loading of 24%. As soon as we have been able to clear up this point we will inform growers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sugar Industry Award 2010</th>
<th>Fair Work Wage Rates from 1 July 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Industry Award Field Sector Classifications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classification</td>
<td>$ per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivation/cane production employee</td>
<td>707.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>684.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>635.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inductee/trainee</td>
<td>495.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youths 18 – 19 years</td>
<td>396.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youths under 18 years</td>
<td>707.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cane haulage employee</td>
<td>684.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>667.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cane harvesting employee Grade 2</td>
<td>733.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>707.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inductee / trainee</td>
<td>684.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that the Sugar Industry Award 2010 covers all Field Sector Employers ie. Corporate Employers, Sole Traders and Partnerships

***Important Notes

Superannuation contribution - must be calculated at 9.25% of each individual employee’s Ordinary Time Earnings.

Calculation of Ordinary Hourly Rate - for all purposes of the Award, the Ordinary Hourly Rate for each of the Classifications contained herein shall be the Weekly Rate divided by 38 with rounding on the second decimal place. The Fair Work Statement refers to weekly wages will be rounded to the nearest 10 cents.

Single Contract Hourly Rate - Employees engaged on a single contract hourly rate shall be paid the number of hours worked per day at 115% of the applicable classification ordinary hourly rate irrespective of the number of hours worked per day or per pay period or the days of the pay period on which work is performed. Employees engaged on this basis shall be entitled to personal/carer’s leave, compassionate leave and annual leave entitlements.

Piecework Rate - Employees engaged on a piecework basis shall be paid a minimum piecework rate sufficient to equal the payment for actual hours worked at both ordinary time and overtime in the relevant pay period plus a loading of 20%. This 20% loading is in lieu of personal/carer’s leave and annual leave entitlements.

Casual Rate - Employees engaged on a casual basis shall be paid at the hourly rate for the class of work performed plus a casual loading. This loading is instead of entitlements to paid leave (eg. personal/carer’s leave and annual leave entitlements).

Shift allowance - The Field Sector Award provides that shiftwork of up to 2 shifts per day may be worked provided that a minimum period of shift work of 4 weeks is in operation and the employees are worked on a roster which allows for rotation through the respective shifts. An allowance shall be paid for each shift in addition to the employee’s ordinary time award wage rate. Employees engaged on afternoon and night shift shall be paid an additional penalty rate as follows:

(i) Afternoon Shift - 12.5%
(ii) Night Shift - 15%

Note: ‘Afternoon Shift’ shall mean any shift finishing after 6.00pm and at or before midnight; ‘Night Shift’ shall mean any shift finishing after midnight and at or before 8.00am or where the majority of hours worked in the shift fall between midnight and 8.00am;

The percentage quoted shall be the amount which is payable for each shift in addition to the employee’s ordinary time award wage rate.
Nearly $1 million invested to fight Yellow Canopy Syndrome

The Australian sugarcane industry and Queensland Government have pooled their financial and scientific resources in a joint initiative to better understand and manage Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS) - an undiagnosed condition affecting some cane-growing regions.

The one-year research project ‘Solving the Yellow Canopy Syndrome’, received a $500,000 commitment from the Sugar Research Development Corporation (SRDC); $276,000 from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Queensland (DAFF Queensland); and $200,000 from BSES Limited.

The project will be supported by an Industry Stakeholder Group, a Scientific Research Panel, productivity service groups and other research organisations.

The Industry Stakeholder group will be represented by all facets of the Australian sugar industry, including CANEGROWERS, the Australian Sugar Milling Council, Burdekin Productivity Services Limited (BPS), Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited (HCPSL) and Plant Health Australia. The Group will play a key role in monitoring the ongoing progress of the project and communicating outcomes and findings to their organisation and members.

The Scientific Reference Panel will provide supporting scientific opinion about the direction of the project. The Panel will include members with national and international recognition in a range of supporting disciplines including plant physiology and molecular pathology.

“It's also critical to involve industry at a local level where this condition has been found. To date, BSES has worked extensively with HCPSL and BPS and these productivity groups will continue to provide an essential on-the-ground presence in two of the most affected areas,” SRDC Executive Director, Annette Sugden, said.

Queensland Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry John McVeigh welcomed the research, describing the sugarcane industry as the lifeblood of many regional communities.

“Last year we committed an additional $4.6 million over four years to BSES for sugarcane research to help boost yields and importantly, to identify and find solutions to production risks such as YCS,” he said.

“My department has valuable expertise in remote sensing applications to manage cane yield variability and make yield predictions at regional and field scales.

“This experience will undoubtedly assist the YCS project and enable easier identification of affected cane and provide information about the spread of the condition.”

BSES Chairman, Mr Paul Wright, said BSES is well-placed to lead this project given its expertise in key scientific fields, an existing extension system and networks within the scientific community.

The project, which has already started, involves large-scale monitoring, sampling programs and data collection activities in the Herbert and Burdekin cane-growing districts.

These results will provide a comprehensive study of YCS over time, allowing supporting investigations to be undertaken as more becomes known about the condition.

Information about the project, its progress and findings will continue to be communicated to industry by BSES’s Professional Extension and Communication Unit.

“This issue has the potential to affect everyone in our industry, so it’s important that everyone remains informed about YCS, even if they have not seen it on their farm,” said Mr Wright.

“YCS has captured the attention of our best minds. I would like to reassure everyone in our industry that solving YCS is our highest priority.”

---

ADVERTISEMENT

Gary Parkinson
Gloria & Lester Paul
Trevor & Pauline Lamb

CONCERNED PIONEER VALLEY GROWERS GROUP

Mackay Sugar Shares for Sale - $2.50 + gst/share

Contact
Mackay Sugar Company Secretary 07 4953 8200
The green shoots of a recovery in raw sugar prices have disappointed, with prices giving back all of their recent gains during the past two weeks. Despite a very modest 145,000 t delivered at JUL13 expiries, reflecting physical tightness in spot sugar, prices have again been under pressure. The OCT13 contract traded as high as 17.50 c/lb. since the last update, before again threatening contract lows at the 16.50c/lb. level.

With refining and physical markets strong, and a wet crush in Brazil diverting more cane to ethanol, many in the raw sugar market are increasingly frustrated by the lack of traction in raw sugar prices. Commodity markets remain difficult to predict with the interplay of financial and physical influences. It would seem the broader dynamic of sharply weakening currencies in the larger sugar producing countries is impossible to ignore. The recent currency move, which has seen the Brazilian Real (BRL) fall by more than 15%, immediately reduced the cost of production, with pricing at current levels more attractive as a result.

We await weather and ethanol mix developments in Brazil for further direction in sugar prices, yet note the anchor of a sharply weaker BRL on any sustained rally in sugar prices.

Currency

The Australian dollar extended its losses in recent weeks. The currency now threatens the US$.90 cent level after comfortably trading above parity until very recently. Whilst senior bankers are now attempting to restore some calm to financial markets, and US$.9150 proving to be a technical line in the sand, we expect further weakness in our currency in coming months.

The game changing realisation that investors would not have access to cheap finance from the US Federal Reserve for an indefinite period of time was reinforced on June 20. This eagerly awaited Federal Reserve meeting in the US confirmed their intent to scale back market liquidity, sending risky assets such as the Australian dollar into a tailspin again.

With Australian economic data inconsistent, the Reserve Bank of Australia may be forced to cut interest rates again. Lower interest rates will remove further support for the Australian dollar, particularly with commodity prices also suffering as China cools and markets remain under pressure.

Whilst definitely good news for the local sugar industry, the benefits of a weaker currency is being swamped by currency moves in Brazil, India and Thailand. We do however expect the Australian dollar to underperform, more than compensating for sluggish sugar prices for local producers.
How the Shared Pool works

By QSL Chief Executive Officer, Greg Beashel

Firstly, I’d like to start this column by thanking you for your continued support throughout the 2012/13 season.

I am pleased to report that all existing three-year contracts with our six milling company suppliers have been extended for another season.

This reinforces the strong relationship QSL has with our miller suppliers and enables QSL to continue to maximise returns through our pricing, financing, logistics and marketing functions.

We are currently in the process of finalising the 2012/13 pool returns and while I’ll elaborate further in my next update, QSL’s pool performance compared to market benchmarks is looking strong.

Having reached the end of the financial year, I’d like to explain how the Shared Pool works as this affects your season end payments.

In essence, the net return you receive is determined by your Gross Pool Price plus a Shared Pool element.

The Gross Price is the market price for sugar before costs and premiums have been applied.

This gross price element is determined by either the ICE 11 or for US Quota, ICE 16, futures market or by direct negotiation with the end customer (in the case of long-term contracts).

The futures and foreign exchanges markets – managed through QSL’s pricing function – is where the majority of the return is determined.

The Shared Pool by comparison is the mechanism by which all suppliers share in the premiums obtained and the costs incurred above the Gross Price.

Premiums gained through QSL’s marketing function are negotiated directly with the customer and include values for:

- The freight advantage of selling raw sugar from Queensland as opposed to the next best alternative source.
- Shipment flexibility and reliability.
- Accessing consistent high quality Australian raw sugar.
- Sugar quality.

Offset against these premiums are the marketing costs that are directly incurred in selling raw sugar to export customers and pool operating costs as outlined below.

Marketing costs:

- Sea freight – the actual cost of delivering raw sugar to customers.
- Discharge port costs – the supervision of weighing and sampling of raw sugar at the customer’s port where required.
- Banking and executions costs – the cost of confirming Letters of Credit and other banking fees, futures brokerage and other commissions incurred.
- Certificate Quota Entitlements (CQE) purchases - the cost of acquiring US quota CQE’s from milling companies that do not supply to QSL under the RSSA.
- Any other costs that relate to marketing (selling) activities of QSL.

RSSA operating costs:

- Costs of storage and handling at the bulk sugar terminals, including the sub-lease of the terminals from Sugar Terminals Limited.
- Costs of running QSL’s raw sugar quality scheme.
- The financing costs of the advance payments scheme and funding of futures’ margins associated with forward pricing.
- QSL operating costs - rent and wages.

I am pleased to report that all existing three-year contracts with our six milling company suppliers have been extended for another season.

Greg Beashel, Chief Executive Officer, QSL

The end value of the Shared Pool is the result of a number of marketing and risk management decisions made by QSL in managing the entire supply chain from the bulk sugar terminals to a customer’s wharf.

QSL continues to focus on effectively managing operating costs and investing in other revenue streams such as other origin sugar, where appropriate, to maximise returns and reduce costs for growers.

I look forward to taking you through our end-of-season pool returns in my next article.
Regional Roundup

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices.

MOSSMAN
The 2013 Mossman crushing season started on Monday 17 June. In the first week 27,748 tonnes of cane was crushed for a mill average of 11.76 CCS. Mossman’s current estimate for the 2013 crop is 560,000 tonnes. With weather permitting, the outlook for the district is promising.

TABLELAND
The 2013 season is proving to be a difficult one for the Tableland Mill. The start of the season was delayed for more than a week due to computer issues and since start-up, they have had major mill performance issues which saw the area lose a week of crushing within the first fortnight. Tableland growers are encouraged to enter their cane into the Mareeba Rodeo Cane Competition coming up on Friday 12 July. Entry forms and further information can be obtained from the CANEGROWERS Tableland Office or online at www.mareebarodeo.com.au.

CAIRNS REGION
Cairns Region cane growers supplying Mulgrave Mill commenced harvesting on Monday 17 June. Those supplying South Johnstone Mill commenced on Tuesday 18 June. Mulgrave suppliers have had a frustrating start to the season with interruptions to crushing due to breakdowns and industrial action. Planting is well underway in the Mulgrave zone and has only just commenced in the Babinda zone due to weather constraints. Mulgrave zone growers recently had the opportunity to hear from QSL.

INNISFAIL
Initial start of crushing at Innisfail was delayed by a week due to above-average autumn rain across the district. Crushing commenced 18 June and there has been very little rainfall across the district with only minor interruptions to harvesting. CCS has commenced low and as at 27 June the seasonal average was 10.69. The mill is performing well with consistently high crushing rates being achieved so far this season. As a consequence, there have been stoppages caused by lack of cane supply.

TULLY
Crushing commenced at Tully on 15 June after 130 mm of rain during the preceding two weeks put paid to any chance of an earlier than normal start. With 160,000 tonnes of a 2.2 million tonne crop harvested, there are prospects of a better than average CCS. The CCS of 11.7 for the week is historically high for Tully, however will depend on rainfall during the season and the time it takes to crush the crop. Planting is under way in some districts, and this year the last of the cyclone damaged blocks will be replanted or fallowed. Ratoon Stunting Disease (RSD) seems to have been on the increase in the last few years, as a result of the available quality of planting material. The crop estimate will become clearer after a month of harvest however a former long term local cane inspector has put the estimate at 90 tonnes per ha which would mean a crop over 2.3 million tonnes.

HERBERT RIVER
After a staggered start on 12 June, the Herbert River mills (Victoria and Macknade) soon got into their stride and harvesters ramped up supply as the paddocks dried out. The crop is currently estimated at 4.04 million tonnes for harvest after allowing for seed cane from the gross estimate. CCS is varied. The average has been around what might be expected from a crop coming out of wet conditions. There have been some really low results in cane exhibiting Yellow Canopy Syndrome.

BURDEKIN
The first Harvest Management Meeting for the season was held on Tuesday morning (25 June) at Pioneer Mill’s Blue Room. Wilmar reported that mill performance was good with the first million tonnes crushed to Sunday 23 June. The forecast crop was 7.44 million tonnes however the latest adjusted estimate is 7.63 million tonnes.

PROSERPINE
The Proserpine Mill was due to commence the 2013 crush on 18 June however this was deferred for a week as a consequence of significant rain activity during late May. The crush officially was under way at 10 am on Monday, 24 June. Estimate remains relatively unchanged at 1.65 million tonnes. Area to be harvested is around 21,000 hectares which is slightly up on the previous year.

ISIS
Isis Mill commenced the 2013 crushing season on Tuesday 25 June. The estimate is 1,300,000 tonnes and crushing is expected to be finished by end of November. CANEGROWERS Isis and Isis Mill negotiated a new cane supply agreement for the 2013 season.

MARYBOROUGH
Maryborough Sugar Factory is scheduled to commence crushing on the 23 July. Estimated tonnage for this season is 565,000 tonnes. CCS for payment purposes is set at 13. The annual pre-season meeting is to be held on the 11 July commencing at 2 pm. Guest speaker will be CANEGROWERS Chair, Paul Schembri. Industry Recovery Officer Steven Smith is due to commence duties on 1 July. Growers seeking assistance with flood damage applications should contact the Maryborough office for an appointment.

ROCKY POINT
Rocky Point has an anticipated crush start date of mid-July onwards. Weather conditions are a little wet, with approximately 100 mm recorded in the month of June, hindering preparations for planting. Some drainage work is still being carried out. Rocky Point cane doesn’t appear to have any signs of Yellow Canopy Syndrome.

A project coordinated by Canegrowers Network Mackay district and CANEGROWERS Mackay resulted in an eye-catching knitted tractor display at the recent Mackay show.
Thinking about crop nutrition and protection?

As the harvest season sets in in many areas, planting is also under way and thus growers’ thoughts are turning to managing the crop’s nutrition needs and protecting it from disease. Implementing an appropriate pest and disease management plan, in addition to a crop nutrition program, is vital to good farming practice.

This Australian Canegrower features crop nutrition and protection, with many of the latest product and services profiled over the next seven pages. This edition features products and news from Ravensdown, Irvin Farm, Crop Care, Incitec Pivot and Howard.

Jasmine Hunt

Townsville blending and bagging store upgrade is on track

Supplied by Ravensdown Fertiliser Australia

The development of Ravensdown Fertiliser Australia (RFA)’s dedicated storing and bagging facility in Townsville continues, with the $1.5 million investment in a new blending and bagging plant.

"Several local companies have won contracts, and the construction and installation of plant components is now well underway," said Bruce Keenan, Business Development Manager for RFA.

RFA says the bucket elevator is almost complete and ready to install while the blending hoppers are currently at the coatings stage and will be ready for installation by the end of the month. Structural steel fabrication is a key part of the improvement to this facility and is on schedule for installation in July.

Minelec Pty Ltd has nearly completed the pre-wire of the control room. A new software programme to control all the equipment and machinery, has been written and installed and is now ready for testing.

RFA says in response to increased support from growers, sales grew significantly last year which supported the company’s decision to commit to the investment in anticipation of further support and sales.

“This facility will produce quality fertiliser while matching indicated grower support and future Queensland forecasted sales growth,” said Mr Keenan.

100% farmer-owned, Ravensdown is Australasia’s largest fertiliser co-operative, providing farmers with the tools, advice and inputs to lift their production and lower their environmental footprint.

For more information visit www.ravensdown.co.nz/qld or call the Ravensdown customer centre on 1800 624 122.

Mastering the microbe

By John Irvin, Principal of Irvin Farm

As we advance further into sustainable farming systems, we reach a point where we realise there is more to sustainability than simply adopting and developing technology and techniques to create a smarter, more resilient environment. This is the time where you realise to be profitable, nature needs to become your partner.

At this point, you wonder how much you really do know about your new partner. A quick analysis by visual observations of field conditions may prove correct but does not confer the exact magnitudes of nature’s workings. It may be that data may have to be collected over several seasons before it can be translated into information.

Crop protection is about assessing risk using data analysis. It is also about assessing ongoing change as technology improves and advance knowledge about rainfall, temperature and soil quality increases. This data is a crucial commodity and can be instrumental in identifying where or when your crop may be at risk.

At ground level, is the crop exposed to risk by conditions that do not let biology thrive? Can the soil recycle nutrients? Is water efficiency able to supply more moisture for longer by harvesting rainfall quickly? Does the soil have protection from erosion and compaction? Above the ground, are there systems in place such as controlled traffic, weed management or GPS data collection on yield, fuel usage and variable rate application of fertiliser or chemicals?

History teaches us that the early adopters of technology and environmental change to mitigate risk have been the ones who have gained most benefit.
If you are ready, why not order your fertiliser early?

If you do, we’ll send you a $5 per tonne credit voucher for you to spend on your next fertiliser purchase.*

Simply purchase your fertiliser and organise pick up before 30 September 2013.

Call 1800 624 122 now to find out more.

*Terms and conditions apply, visit www.ravensdowzn.com.au for more information.
suSCon Maxi provides excellent return on investment

Supplied by Crop Care

An extra 65.7 tonnes per hectare is the potential difference in return between applying the sustained-release cane grub control suSCon Maxi and not applying it to plant cane, according to years of trials run collaboratively by BSES Limited and Crop Care.

The net economic benefit of treating with suSCon Maxi is between $1,692 and $2,294 per hectare, depending on sugar price. The cost of the product is only $6.85 per tonne for the additional cane grown.

These figures are based on the average increase in cane yield over three crop cycles (plant, first and second ratoon), compared with untreated cane infested with greyback cane grub.

Net return per hectare from suSCon Maxi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cane quality and price*</th>
<th>Value of extra 65.7 tonnes of cane</th>
<th>Net benefit per ha#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.5ccs $32.60/tonne</td>
<td>suSCon Maxi $2,142</td>
<td>$1,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14ccs $38.42/tonne</td>
<td>suSCon Maxi $2,524</td>
<td>$2,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15ccs $41.76/tonne</td>
<td>suSCon Maxi $2,744</td>
<td>$2,294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on forecast income for IPS sugar of A$426 per tonne on 2013 forward pool season.
#Based on cost per hectare, including application, of $450 for suSCon Maxi (15kg box).

Crop Care business manager for suSCon products Kerrie Mackay said the figures speak for themselves.

“suSCon Maxi – with its net returns per hectare, its long-term protection, its ease of application and savings on labour – provides cane growers with the most efficient and economic means of controlling cane grubs,” she said.

“It is the only product in Australia registered to protect sugarcane for two years against Greyback cane grub; for three years against Negatoria and Southern-one-year cane grub; and for four years against Childers cane-grub damage.”

Ms Mackay said that as growers pushed for higher productivity and returns per hectare from their crop inputs, Crop Care was continuing to work with the industry on even longer-term cane grub control from a single application to plant cane.

“On the basis of the results of continued trials, Crop Care will submit an application to the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority for three-year control of greyback cane grubs with an advanced new product suSCon Maxi Intel,” said Ms Mackay.

“As more trial data comes to hand, canegrowers can expect to lengthen grub control even more from this new product, new actives and new suSCon formulations.”

Stick to the label and save

Ms Mackay said she was concerned about the reported use of liquid imidacloprid products within the first year of application of suSCon Maxi to the plant crop.

“This is contrary to label directions and increases the risk of failure due to accelerated biodegradation of the granules, plus potential runoff into the environment. It also puts this valuable insecticide, imidacloprid, at risk of resistance development and subsequent poorer grub control in the future,” she said.

“Using a liquid imidacloprid in blocks with low or non-existent grub risk potentially adds to these risks. As well as the risks, growers are spending money unnecessarily.”

Crop Care recommends applying suSCon Maxi in plant cane, followed up by an application of Senator 700WG three to four years later if necessary, according to the label.

“suSCon Maxi provides excellent grub control and yield increases in its own right. A follow-up application of a liquid imidacloprid less than two years after suSCon Maxi is not likely to return any benefit in yield.”
Yield and profit maximised

Secure greater protection of your investment by incorporating suSCon Maxi into your grub control program.

Maximise
- Protection
  - 2 to 4 year grub control*
  - depending on the species
- Yield
- Return on investment

Minimise
- Environmental Impact
- Labour

*suSCon Maxi is now registered for 4 year control of childers cane grub.
suSCon Maxi is a registered trademark of Crop Care Australasia Pty Ltd. ABN 80 061 362 347
Efficient use of nitrogen in sugar cane

Supplied by Incitec Pivot

When it comes to nutrition to maximise sugarcane production, the efficient and timely application of nitrogen is an important consideration.

One potential efficiency issue relates to surface applying nitrogen, especially urea onto trash blankets. This is due to the risk of volatilisation loss. This could potentially impact on nutrient use efficiency, as applied nitrogen is released as ammonia (NH3) to the atmosphere and is not available to the crop.

Volatilisation losses can be significant and vary depending on prevailing conditions, according to Rob Dwyer, Technical Agronomist with Incitec Pivot Fertilisers based in the Burdekin.

Mr Dwyer said crop nitrogen losses have been recorded at over 60 kg N/ha, equating to daily losses averaging 1.5 kg N/ha/day.*

Factors influencing these losses include pH, moisture (dew, soil moisture or light showers), daily drying cycles and time to adequate incorporation.

Another significant influence on volatilisation potential is product selection, as not all nitrogen fertilisers are as prone to volatilisation as surface applied urea.

"Using a fertiliser such as Incitec Pivot Fertilisers’ Cal-Gran® fertiliser is one way to surface apply nitrogen to sugarcane with a lower risk of losing nitrogen through volatilisation," Mr Dwyer said.

Cal-Gran contains nitrogen (23.9%), sulphur (10.8%) and calcium (4.4%). The nitrogen is present in two forms - 7.4% is present as nitrate nitrogen and 16.5% as ammonium nitrogen.

An added benefit is that Cal-Gran and Cal-Gran blends are not classified as Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate (SSAN), which means growers do not require a SSAN licence to purchase, transport or store these products.

There are also numerous Cal-Gran blends available to meet additional nutrient demands such as those for phosphorus and potassium. Some of these blends include Cal-Gran 50/50, Cal-Gran Nitra King, Cal-Gran 140 and Cal-Gran 150.

Cal-Gran blends can be used broadly, but are ideally suited for surface applications in cane, especially in green cane trash blanket (GCTB) situations.

It is important that growers keep informed of the best ways to improve nutrient efficiency on farm.

For more information about Cal-Gran, contact your local Incitec Pivot Fertilisers’ Distributor.

GREAT SAVINGS ON SPRAYERS!

GET IN QUICK – DON’T MISS THESE DEALS!

LIMITED STOCK AT THIS PRICE!

ONLY 4 LEFT AT THIS PRICE!

NEW STOCK WILL BE MORE EXPENSIVE!

SPECIAL PRICE GET IN QUICK!

EXPO 401 BP60G SPRAYER
• 400 litre linkage sprayer
• 6m Manual Fold Spray Boom
• 65 L/min Comet pump
• 4-outlet manual controller
• Easy clean suction filter

EXPO 601 BP60G SPRAYER
• 600 litre linkage sprayer
• 8m Manual Fold Spray Boom
• 65 L/min Comet pump
• 4-outlet manual controller
• Easy clean suction filter

EXPO 1000 BP125-EP SPRAYER
• 1000 litre linkage sprayer
• 12m Manual Fold Spray Boom
• 121 L/min Comet pump
• 3-section electric control
• Manual pressure control

GREAT SAVINGS ON SPRAYERS!

$ 3,950 plus GST
$ 4,345 (incl GST)
PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE DEALER PRE-DELIVERY AND ASSEMBLY CHARGES
MODEL EXPO401-BP60G

$ 4,700 plus GST
$ 5,170 (incl GST)
PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE DEALER PRE-DELIVERY AND ASSEMBLY CHARGES
MODEL EXPO601-BP60G

$ 8,595 plus GST
$ 9,455 (incl GST)
PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE DEALER PRE-DELIVERY AND ASSEMBLY CHARGES
MODEL EXPO1000 BP125-EP

IMPORTANT: Prices valid for existing stock only. All SPRAYRITE prices include delivery.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT HOWARD AUSTRALIA
Head Office: 167 Prospect Highway, Seven Hills NSW 2147 Phone: 02 8824 1900 Fax: 02 9674 6263
Email: info@howard-australia.com Website: www.howard-australia.com
Horticulture and cane combo a winner for Burdekin farming family

By Beth Macmahon

Almost forty years ago, Ken Booth arrived in the lower Burdekin looking for work with nothing but a suitcase and a 1962 Holden EK Special.

As luck would have it, he fell in love and liked the place so much that he stayed.

Today, with a number of farms including one in Clare and another just past Baratta Creek, Ken works 1000 hectares of sugarcane, zucchinis and pumpkins.

A family-owned and run operation, Ken, along with his wife, Anna; four sons, Kurt, 33, twins Luke and David, 32, and Quintin, 30, and his mother-in-law, Naltalina, has seen financial and environmental gains in the management of their farm through good foresight and a great deal of persistence.

In place of what was previously, (in Ken’s terms) “half a swamp”, they have built a sizable recycling pit.

To achieve this, a large amount of dirt had to be dug out and shifted, a feat that ended up taking a number of months to finish.

“We wanted to dig it out and make it a recycle pit, but to do that, we had to push all the dirt into another paddock and that took a bit of leveling,” said Ken.

“Plus we had to box out with the dozer and take all the topsoil off.”

The whole process took place in two stages. Stage one had the Booths invest in a pipeline with a dual suction system at one end of the pit area. Stage two, the recycling pit, took another five years before fruition.

Following approval, the pit was delayed by wet weather until December 2011, when the Booths were able to start to run drains through the pit to remove all the water as quickly as possible.

Farmers teaching farmers

Key learnings

- The Booth family have seen financial savings through the establishment of a pipeline and a recycling pit. The 65 megalitre recycling pit allows them to pump water for days. It is also beneficial to the reef as it captures the farm run-off.
- The Booths have increased efficiencies by using GPS to fertilise, spray and work the ground.
- They have also upgraded from spring chemicals on pellets to a safe chemical storage system with the addition of a chemical container.
The Booths have a highly effective flood irrigation system in place.

We can pump [water] for eight days out there and not worry. And because it captures the run off, it’s beneficial to the reef.

Ken Booth, Burdekin grower

It was finally finished in October 2012 and while lengthy, the process has been a very worthwhile addition to the farm.

With a capacity to hold 65 megalitres of water, the pit is approximately ten times the size of an average recycling pit.

“We can pump [water] for eight days out there and not worry,” he said.

“And because it captures the run off, it’s beneficial to the reef.

“You have to be able to catch that first run-off if you have a lot of rain in a short amount of time, so you’ve got to have your drains set up so that it overflows into the other side of the pit.”

With such a flood irrigation system in place, the Booths have seen financial savings too.

“It’s a money saver. We had a couple of inches of rain recently that we collected with the pit and used instead of the channel water,” Ken said.

These gains have been hard earned. Ken started out collecting sticks of cane behind a harvester.

“Back then, it was called a ground man. I then got a job in a haul out and driving a harvester up here in Clare. Then I bought my own haul outs, and finally after that, I started farming,” said Ken.

With peak cane restrictions preventing the family from planting cane in certain paddocks, Ken started to look into alternate crops.

“We had 16 ha (40 acres) of grass on this farm that we couldn’t plant cane on, so I thought, I’m going to grow veggies,” he said.

That was more than 25 years ago. Since then, Ken and Anna have bought an additional 20 ha (50 acres) in an adjacent block to increase the size of their crop.

The Booth’s vegetables are sent to all the major markets including those in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. “It’s all for the fresh markets. We have our agents that sell it on our behalf,” says Ken.

“And it’s labour intensive. We probably have about 30 people on-the-go to help with the vegetable picking.”

Eldest son Kurt, a carpenter by trade, has returned to the farm in recent years to learn the family trade.

His building skills have been of particular use around the farm. Not only do the Booths have a fantastic outdoor dining rotunda, most recently used to celebrate the start of harvest, but they have also built their own workers accommodation on the farm.

“The workers love it because they don’t have to pay to travel to work,” Ken said.

“We also built a picking aid and that has 15 people plus the driver working on it. We have another four or five people...
Zucchinis are volatile on the market – one week they can be pretty average, then there will be a cold snap down south that will halve their production and the price will double.

*Ken Booth, Burdekin grower*

“Zucchinis are volatile on the market – one week they can be pretty average, then there will be a cold snap down south that will halve their production and the price will double,” he said.

To pollinate, they have forty hives of bees.

“The hives are expensive - $17 a month each, but we need them of course.”

With some assistance from the federal government’s Reef Rescue, the Booth family have made numerous additions to their farm. They were earlier adopters of GPS.

“We purchased the one with one brain and two wheel kits so we shared the brain between two tractors,” said Ken.

They use the GPS to fertilise, spray and work the ground. They also set up a safe chemical storage system with the addition of a chemical container.

“We used to keep our chemical on pallets but we thought we better upgrade. We can now keep all the stuff in one place. It’s a fully bunted dangerous goods container,” he said.

Since 2006, the Booths have used a sub terrain stool spliter in the hill system for fertilising.

“We’ve gone back to using a mixture fertiliser. If we get behind, we’ll use dunder.”

The farms are set up with the five foot traditional row system.

“If we keep the hill size small, the harvester doesn’t tend to ride up the side too much. It works well for us.”

The Booths are part of the Invicta Mill catchment and use contract harvesters for their 770 hectares of sugarcane.

They grow Q228, Q208, KQ220 and Q183, with the latter being Ken’s preferred variety.
The zucchini crop is labour intensive and the Booths have approximately 30 people on-the-go to help with the vegetable picking.

With some assistance from the federal government’s Reef Rescue, the Booth family have made numerous additions to their farm. They were earlier adopters of GPS.

“My pick is Q183. It’s the all-rounder. We just don’t get the tonnage from KQ228. However, Luke is trialing a few new varieties on his land so we’ll wait and see,” he said.

This year, they are expecting to have more than 70,000 tonnes, despite being unable to early plant due to the wet weather.

In 2012, Ken bought a spreader and hoped to start using it to spread gypsum by June 2013.

They’re also midway through purchasing a planter, which will make it easier to plant when weather allows rather than waiting on a contractor. Planting in the sandy soils with the coulter hasn’t produced the results that Ken wants.

“We don’t get the really big crops like we used to. I used to grow all 96 and we’d average 60 tonnes for the acre – that’s 80 – 85 tonnes plant cane down to 45 – 50 third ratoon. Now, on average, we get 40 tonnes per acre. But it’s a combination of things really – the weather hasn’t been good.”

The family likes not having to rely entirely on one crop.

“We’ve grown everything – broccoli, shallots, okra, silverbeet, cherry tomatoes, capsicum, chilli, eggplant and watermelon,” he says.

“Pumpkins are our next project. They’re just kicking off.”

“We put in for Reef Rescue [funding] on the horticulture side for a trickle pump so we’ll set that up soon,” he said.
CANEGROWERS classifieds

FIRST 30 WORDS FREE FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS book online anytime of the day or night www.canegrowers.com.au or email Kim Thackeray at ads@canegrowers.com.au
Next deadline is Thursday 11 July 2013.

*As a FREE service to CANEGROWERS members, Australian Canegrower will print suitable classified advertisements UP TO 30 WORDS FREE, FOR ONE ISSUE ONLY. A charge of $5.50 will apply for each extra 7-word line or part thereof. A charge will apply for advertising of non-cane growing activities. Advertisements must relate exclusively to cane farming activities, e.g. farm machinery etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at $11 per 7-word line incl GST. Only pre-paid ads will be accepted.

FOR SALE
Cane farmer retiring from farming
1 Toft Cane Harvester $15,000 o.n.o.
1 Wide Shoot Billet Cane Planter $12,000 o.n.o.
1 Toft High Lift Track In-fielder $30,000 o.n.o.
2 Billet Cane Buggies $10,000 o.n.o.
1 Fertiliser Box $4,000 o.n.o.

Plus other equipment
All equipment is in good working order and ready to go.
Phone Dave 0418 765 832 or Pat 0438 599 412

JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY
Australian Distributor
Belshina Tyres & Chinese Imports
Tractor Tyres
Earthmoving Tyres
Truck Tyres
Cars & 4WD Tyres

DROVER EQUIPMENT AUSTRALIA
UTV’s, ATV’s & AG BIKES
See website for more details
P: 07 4952 2577 M: 0412 535 887
www.johnnyfarmingcompany.com.au
E: johnnyfarmingco@bigpond.com
133 Schmidke Road Mackay 4740

GRAHAM TWYFORD
Machinery Sales Pty Ltd
Specialising in Used Cane Harvesting Equipment Sales
CASE 7000 WHEEL HARVESTER 2007
Iveco 10 Litre Eng. 350 HP 5,100 Hrs. 15 x 8 Blade Chopper System. Chopper Box & B/Cutter Recent Overhauls. Kratzmann Long Elevator. Standard Whole Topper. High Capacity LOW Hours !
WESTHILL TRACK TRANSPORTER.
TOFT INFIELD TRACK TRANSPORTER Cat 3208 Eng 210 HP. Hi Lift to 4 Metres. Side Tipper, Low Hour Machine. 24” Grousers. VERY GOOD CONDITION.
MULTIPLIER TWO INTO ONE SUIT CASE 7700 SAI Radial Piston B/Cutter Drive Motors
Good Condition - MAKE AN OFFER
NEW 4 SLAT OPEN BUTT ROLLERS Suit JD 3510/20. Helps Drop Dirt. Enquire NOW!
McLEAN THREE QUARTER TRACKS.
Suit Case 8000. New Pins And Bushes. Also Modify To Suit JD Wheel.
REDUCED PRICE LIMITED TIME ONLY!
12 BLADE DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS Suit JOHN DEERE/CAMECO 3520/3510 MODELS 95mm Blades New Seal Plates Supplied With Kits.
INCREASE Bin weights, Better Cleaning. Tungsten Hard Faced on Wear Areas.
ENQUIRE NOW

NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR NEW:
BILLET PLANTER 2500 ADJUSTABLE FURROW DEPTH & WIDTH RUBBER MAIN FEED BELT
40 Years Associated with Sugar Cane Harvesters
Graham Twyford
48 Central Park Drive, Pagent Mackay
Mobile: 0418 742 696
Phone: 07 49 526 668
Email: graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au
Web: www.gtmachinerysales.com.au

TG DRAINS
AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE CONTRACTORS

INSTALLATION OF SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE:
✓ Prevents Waterlogging.
✓ Increased Crop Yields.
✓ Lowers Water Tables.
✓ Controls Salinity.
✓ Lower incidence of soil borne diseases.

ALL MACHINERY LASER CONTROLLED
All drains are GPS mapped for future reference.

www.tgdrains.com.au
TIM BEETS: 0409 115 474

JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY
Australian Distributor
Belshina Tyres & Chinese Imports

JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY
Australian Distributor
Belshina Tyres & Chinese Imports

DROVER EQUIPMENT AUSTRALIA
UTV’s, ATV’s & AG BIKES
See website for more details
P: 07 4952 2577 M: 0412 535 887

JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY
Australian Distributor
Belshina Tyres & Chinese Imports

JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY
Australian Distributor
Belshina Tyres & Chinese Imports

JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY
Australian Distributor
Belshina Tyres & Chinese Imports

DROVER EQUIPMENT AUSTRALIA
UTV’s, ATV’s & AG BIKES
See website for more details
P: 07 4952 2577 M: 0412 535 887
www.johnnyfarmingcompany.com.au
E: johnnyfarmingco@bigpond.com
133 Schmidke Road Mackay 4740

GRAHAM TWYFORD
Machinery Sales Pty Ltd
Specialising in Used Cane Harvesting Equipment Sales
CASE 7000 WHEEL HARVESTER 2007
Iveco 10 Litre Eng. 350 HP 5,100 Hrs. 15 x 8 Blade Chopper System. Chopper Box & B/Cutter Recent Overhauls. Kratzmann Long Elevator. Standard Whole Topper. High Capacity LOW Hours !
WESTHILL TRACK TRANSPORTER.
TOFT INFIELD TRACK TRANSPORTER Cat 3208 Eng 210 HP. Hi Lift to 4 Metres. Side Tipper, Low Hour Machine. 24” Grousers. VERY GOOD CONDITION.
MULTIPLIER TWO INTO ONE SUIT CASE 7700 SAI Radial Piston B/Cutter Drive Motors
Good Condition - MAKE AN OFFER
NEW 4 SLAT OPEN BUTT ROLLERS Suit JD 3510/20. Helps Drop Dirt. Enquire NOW!
McLEAN THREE QUARTER TRACKS.
Suit Case 8000. New Pins And Bushes. Also Modify To Suit JD Wheel.
REDUCED PRICE LIMITED TIME ONLY!
12 BLADE DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS Suit JOHN DEERE/CAMECO 3520/3510 MODELS 95mm Blades New Seal Plates Supplied With Kits.
INCREASE Bin weights, Better Cleaning. Tungsten Hard Faced on Wear Areas.
ENQUIRE NOW

NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR NEW:
BILLET PLANTER 2500 ADJUSTABLE FURROW DEPTH & WIDTH RUBBER MAIN FEED BELT
40 Years Associated with Sugar Cane Harvesters
Graham Twyford
48 Central Park Drive, Pagent Mackay
Mobile: 0418 742 696
Phone: 07 49 526 668
Email: graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au
Web: www.gtmachinerysales.com.au

TG DRAINS
AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE CONTRACTORS

INSTALLATION OF SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE:
✓ Prevents Waterlogging.
✓ Increased Crop Yields.
✓ Lowers Water Tables.
✓ Controls Salinity.
✓ Lower incidence of soil borne diseases.

ALL MACHINERY LASER CONTROLLED
All drains are GPS mapped for future reference.

www.tgdrains.com.au
TIM BEETS: 0409 115 474

GRANDLING WRECKERS
72 Drysdale Street, BRANDON Q 4808
Ph: (07) 4782 5131 Fax: (07) 4782 5185
www.brandonwreckers.com.au

Wanted to buy tractors in any condition

Tractor-Cane Harvester-Machinery Wreckers
Mossman - Tully

Case 590 standard front bucket new condition. 10 tyne scarify implement. 7 tyne rigid grubber. 0407 182 500 (Innisfail area)

John Deere 4040 2WD 1980 7100 hrs $3,500. 07 4068 6152

John Deere 6400 1995 4WD 3900 hrs $30,000. 07 4068 6152

Case IH Magnum 235.4 WD Sept 2012 Tractor, Full powershift, guidance ready, Extended warranty rear dual. Only 110hrs farm sold. $160,000 + GST. 0413 339 402 (Mulgrave area)

Bonel whole stick cutter i.g.c. 0418 154 557 (Tully area)

MF 102 Cane Harvester for Billet Planting. 0439 654 815

Massey Ferguson 65 in good running order $4,000 + gst. 07 4093 2450

Herbert River - Burdekin

2003 CAMECO 3500 wheelee. GC. Shredder Topper 10 Blade Chop. Many extras. POA. 0429 065 022 (Burdekin)

John Deere Hi Crop final drives just arrived for 30 to 55 series Tractors. 0427 835 762 (Burdekin)

Rinuado 4.5ton s/s stool splitter fert box as new POA. 07 4777 6151 A/H

FOR SALE

- 1 x John Deere 6930 4WD. Excellent condition 2300hrs
- 1 x 3.6 ton Case Excavator
- 1 x 17 ton Hitachi Excavator
- 1 x Dual Row, Double Row HBM Billit Planter Hydraulic Drive
- 1 x Double Row HBM Billit Planter Hydraulic Drive
- 2 x Moller 3 Tonne Billit Planting Bins
- 1 x Kubota 9540 FWD Tractor Ex Con
- 1 x John Deere 5520 FWD V/G Con
- 1 x Kubota 6040 FWD Tractor Ex Condition
- 1 x 2009 Trimble Auto pilot to suit a John Deere 3510 Harvester
- 1 x 8066 Fiat FWD Fair Condition
- 1 x John Deere 4520 – FWD VGC

WANTED

- 10 ton Elevating Bin for truck mounting
- 1 x Double Bin Trailer with Floatation Wheels
- 4 tonne HBM Tipper Bins

Call Ross on 4068 5499 or 0418 988 601

FOR SALE

Two 2009 JCB 3230 Tractors

Fitted to EHS tri axle trailer dual gauged 3ft 6 and 2 ft roff rail/roff rails. Tractors fully reconditioned by JCB 2013. trailers overhauled with flotation tyres.

Contact Ian Haigh 0418 181 335 Burdekin.

Machinery & Marine Sales

Specialists in Buying, Selling and Trading Sugarcane Harvesting, Hauling & Farming equipment

We also stock new and second hand Cameco and John Deere Harvester Hydraulic Components

To view our range of equipment Visit www.nqmmsales.com.au

Contact Jason Zunker
N.Q.M.M Sales Ayr
Phone 0428 827 605 or email j.zunk@yahoo.com.au

INGHAM AGENCIES

This maintenance season buy direct from the manufacturer

- VIDAPLATE EXTRACTOR LINERS
- VIDAPLATE CUT TO ANY SIZE & SHAPE
- VIDAPLATE FLAT BAR 40, 50, 65, 75 & 100 MM IN STOCK
- 8 & 10 BLADE CHOPPER DRUMS
- BASE CUTTER DISCS
- CORRADIINI TIPPER SPROCKETS & CHAINS
- FLAT SPRING STEEL 40X6 FOR WEAR STRIPS

MADE IN QUEENSLAND FOR AUSTRALIAN CONDITIONS

Take advantage of our pre-season deals on extractor blades

Contact: Michael Pelleri
Phone: 07 47761273 Fax: 07 4776 2326
sales@inghamagencies.com.au

Beaulieu R.U.M.

Attention Canegrowers

The first step in achieving a high yielding cane crop is a good strike and vigorous growth in the early stage of your crop.

This can be achieved easily by simply adding 5 litres of R.U.M per acre to your dip water.

For a cost of around $25 per acre Can you afford not to give it a go?

For further information contact –

Burdekin & Northern Region call Wally Ford 0417 937 722
Mackay Region call Noel Jensen 0438 595 325
Childers Region call Peter Irwin 0428 427 212
Mackay - Proserpine

12t self-propelled 6x6 elev. infielder. VGC. Fiat 780 tractor, going $4,000.00 ONO 0429 835 400 (Mackay area).

Toft 4000 wheeled cane harvester excellent condition $20,000 + GST ONO 0427 588 038

70 hp Perkins motor coupled to irrigation motor mounted on trailer, suitable for 4” irrigator $8,800 (includes GST). 07 4959 7080

Ford 5000 6Y series, 77hp, roll bar, 80% rubber, remotes and 3 point linkage $9,000 (includes GST). 07 4959 7080

High speed track motor to suit 1996 full-track Cameco harvester - fully reconditioned $3,300 (includes GST). 07 4959 7080

Case 8910 4x4, 170hp air-cab tractor; GC $28,000 + GST. Austoft 7700, 1999 model, 325hp Komatsu, 8 blade chop, Westhill adjuster, shredder topper, swingout radiator. G.C. 0427 595 085

Fiat 1180 tractor, not going $5,000.00. 0429 835 400 (Mackay)

Toft 4000 - 6000 base-cutter box $660.

Massy Ferguson 188 $8,000. Ford 7600 $12,000. Massey Ferguson 65 $3,000. All prices + GST. 0418 720 373

98 Cameco track harvester with 360hp M11 engine 900hrs. One owner/driver, service history, well maintained, low component hrs, VGC. POA. 07 4959 1098

Bundaberg - Rocky Point

Drop-deck, tautliner and flat top extendable for hire. 07 4159 8174 or 0417 004 717.

Location Recorded rainfall (mm) Average rainfall (mm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>7 days to 9am</th>
<th>Year to date</th>
<th>Jan to Jul</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mossman</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1512</td>
<td>1724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mareeba AP</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairns</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>945</td>
<td>1598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Sophia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>2577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babinda</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1561</td>
<td>3261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innisfail</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2363</td>
<td>2714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tully</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>2681</td>
<td>3154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardwell</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1361</td>
<td>1655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucindia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1177</td>
<td>1653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ingham</td>
<td>Tce</td>
<td>1509</td>
<td>1555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abergrowrie</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1326</td>
<td>1429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townsville</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayr DPI</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proserpine</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1237</td>
<td>1027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirani</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1426</td>
<td>1118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackay</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1594</td>
<td>1169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarina (Plane Ck)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1602</td>
<td>1282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundaberg</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1044</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childers South</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>925</td>
<td>513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1108</td>
<td>728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tewantist</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1422</td>
<td>1129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eumundi</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1789</td>
<td>1095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nambour</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1521</td>
<td>1085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woongoolba</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1071</td>
<td>834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murgon Lumbah</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1304</td>
<td>1035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballina</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1654</td>
<td>1114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodburn</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1016</td>
<td>678</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weather report brought to you by AustSafe Super

(Zero indicates either no rain or no report was sent). These rainfall figures are subject to verification. Cardwell’s year to date amount is inaccurate due to equipment failure as a result of cyclone damage. Weather forecasts, radar and satellite images and other information for the learning community can be accessed on www.bom.gov.au. Weather report provided by Bureau of Meteorology’s Commercial Weather Services Unit.

Warranty: Advertisers and/or Advertising Agents upon and by lodging material with the Publisher for publication or authorising or approving of the publication of any material INDEMNIFY the Publisher, its servants and agents against all liability claims or proceedings whatsoever arising from the publication and without limiting the generality of the foregoing to indemnify each of them in relation to defamation, slander of titles, breach of copyright, infringement of trademarks or names of publication titles, unfair competition or trade practices, royalties or violation of rights of privacy AND WARRANT that the material complies with all relevant laws and regulations and that its publication will not give rise to any rights against or liabilities to the Publisher, its servants or agents and in particular, that nothing therein is capable of a breach of Part V of the Trade Practices Act 1984.

Indemnity: Advertisers and/or Advertising Agents accept full responsibility for the contents of all advertisements and agree to indemnify the Publisher against all liability and claims or proceedings arising out of the publication of such advertisement. Provision of material or copy for publication constitutes acceptance by Advertisers and Advertising Agents of this condition.
Toft 6500 Cat.Di. Shredder T.S.K. Seperate
Ex.circuit 7000 Elev.V.G.C. $25,000 + gst
07 4129 7327
Westhill 4 roller 1/2 Tracks suit 7000.
Mod. to stop frame cracking. 4 Sprockets.
$6,000 + gst. 07 4129 7327

Wanted - 11 or 13 tyne Gessner or Yoemen bar with crumble roller or similar.
0428 981 379
Crumble roller/rollers to suit a 4m rotary
hoe. Complete Series 12 drive shaft
assembly for HR 60 /61 rotary hoe.
0407 182 500
Hay /tops rake. New cane varieties.
0419 771 504 (Mackay-Sarina area)
Wanted - Pinion Gear for M Series Howard
Rotary Hoe. 07 40617378 or 0427 163 519
after 7.00pm
WANTED Ford 5610 with cab.
07 4093 2450
Wanted - Tipper Bins suitable for Planting.
0417 712066

Positions Vacant
Tractor Driver for liquid fertiliser
application required. UD or HC license
essential. Knowledge of GPS and spray
rig operation an advantage. Start middle
to the end of JULY in the Proserpine area.
Phone Paul: 0448 374 831

Work Wanted
My name is Ultan Powell, I will be
travelling back to Australia (Brisbane)
with my cousin on the 17th of July from
Ireland and we are both looking for jobs
in the 2013 sugar cane harvest. Neither
of us have a UD license but will get one
within a week of being in Australia. We
both have experience in the cotton
harvest, cane harvest and planting cane.
We also have a lot of other experience
operating heavy machinery. Please email
pultan@yahoo.com

Looking for a special
piece of machinery?
Place an advertisement
in our classified
Wanted columns at
www.canegrowers.com.au

Property
Cane Farm via Koumala 94ha home,
large sheds, full irrigation, [2] dams, grew
80tonne @ha last year, 7th in 24 in
group, 4,050 tonnes can do better. Bit of
machinery, $980,000 Phone 0407 118 074

Insurance premiums soaring?
Tailoring your insurance
to your farm has just become easier.

Finally. Insurance that understands farming.
CANEGROWERS has set up its own insurance service.
We have directly employed a team of qualified insurance
professionals to work with growers on their insurance needs.
Interested in getting a quote?
Call your nearest CANEGROWERS office today.
Spotted anything unusual?

Nothing will protect your fields more than a good hard look.

Cane growers are the key to protecting Australia’s fields from exotic insects and diseases that could devastate the industry.

It is important that you are aware of the risk, and if you spot anything unusual in your field you should always check it out and call your local BSES office or the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. The call is free (except from mobiles) and early detection will help protect your industry.

Visit www.planthealthaustralia.com.au for further information and a list of the top priority pests.

LOOK. BE ALERT. CALL AN EXPERT.